



## **Week of September 27th!**

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### **September 27th**

Our staff is gathering today for our second teacher-professional collaboration day of the school year. Our staff continues to appreciate our families for allowing this collaboration time to occur. While our educators love seeing your children each day, we know having adequate plan and collaboration time benefits students in the long run.

These days are a significant benefit for our elementary staff that will, in turn, support our students' academic success. I want to share some details about how our staff spent the day. Today we will dive into 2nd quarter priority standards for each grade level and how to support every child at PSE.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Have a great weekend!

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### **Mark your calendars for the 2024-25 K-5 teacher professional collaboration days.**

As we kick off the 2024-25 school year, I want to remind families about the teacher professional collaboration days designed for teacher plan and collaboration time. These eight days, which occur throughout the school year, are non-student attendance days for K-5 students. These days are vital to ensure the best possible preparation for our elementary students and key to quality teacher retention.

The following days, which can be found in the [2024-25 calendar](#) on the district website, have been designated as teacher professional collaboration days:

- September 27
- November 1
- December 6
- January 31
- February 28
- April 11
- May 2

Thank you for your support and partnership as we ensure our educators have adequate plan and collaboration time. Have a wonderful school year!

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## Morning Arrival

I am reaching out to you with a very important safety reminder. Prairie Star students are periodically dropped off at school in the morning before the doors are unlocked or staff is present to welcome them. We believe this is an unsafe practice and ask parents not to drop off their children until our adult staff is on duty at 8:25 AM to provide supervision. Thank you for your cooperation

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## Donuts with DUDES!!!

Calling all Dads or other amazing Adult:

Join us for **Donuts with Dudes** in the cafeteria on October 9 and 10 anytime from 7:45 to 8:25 a.m.

You and your student can enjoy a *complimentary* breakfast, which includes donuts, fruit, milk, juice, and Roasterie coffee.

Last names A-M should come on October 9 and N-Z on October 10. If you need to switch days, that should be fine.

We hope to have about half the families each day to spread out the crowd and help with parking!

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**Save the Dates**  
**WANDER NEW**  
**WORLDS AT THE**  
*Literati*  
**BOOK FAIR**

Online Book Fair is Open Now!  
<http://fairs.literati.com>  
Don't Miss the Online Exclusives

◆ **EXPLORE STARFIELDS OF STORIES** ◆

<b>Dinner &amp; Books</b> Tuesday October 8th 3:45-7:30pm Shop the Book Fair and grab a Take N' Bake Pizza being sold by the 5th grade class. Pizza Pre-order will open up next week!	<b>Donuts with Dudes</b> October 9th & 10th 7:45 - 8:30am Grab a donut with your favorite dude and shop the book fair
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Each Class will have an opportunity to shop during the school day on October 9th & 10th. Parents are welcome to join!

## Links for Book Fair Volunteers and Pre-Order Pizza

Volunteer- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AAFA62DA0FBC43-51659133-book?useFullSite=true#/>

Pizza Form-

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkm7kFVrLlvHU2Etd7TLhpqGmUNKleBDeycOUNGU CfsYonQQ/viewform>

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## Late Night at the October 18th!

Prairie Star staff is excited to continue **Late Night at the Star!** Late Night at the Star classes are after-school enrichment programs offered to the students here at Prairie Star.

Each Friday night class costs \$50 and will run from after school until 6:30. If you enroll in Late Night, you will not need to pick up your child until 6:30. Please assume that your child is enrolled in each class that they have requested unless you hear from the office.

Camp scholarships are now available. Please get in touch with Mrs. Sperry for more information.

To enroll in camps, please see the website link:

<https://prairiestarpto.membershiptoolkit.com/home>. Registration closes the day before at 6:00 pm.

**All Late Night at the STAR questions go to Melissa Bonner. Her email is [mabonner@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:mabonner@bluevalleyk12.org).**

### **Halloween Glow Party (Kindergarten Staff) Kindergarten - 2nd Grade**

It's almost Halloween! Is there a better time to enjoy a glow in the dark party? We will decorate t-shirts (provided), get our faces painted with glow in the dark paint, and play glow in the dark games! Awesome party favors, snacks and dinner included! It will be so frightful if you don't sign up!

### **Forts and Fun Party (Purcell, Wayland, Philips) Kindergarten - 5th Grade**

Bring your blankets, pajamas and stuffed animals and join us in making forts in the pod. We will also watch a movie, have dinner and dessert, and play fun games in the dark!! Get ready for an awesome fort night!

### **Halloween STEAM (Nicholson, Gabler, Brush) Kindergarten - 5th Grade**

Join the first grade teachers for an exciting night full of halloween steam activities! Compete in challenges to earn prizes! Snacks, dinner, and a festive Halloween drink included!

### **"Spook-tacular" Haunted Houses (Arquieta) Kindergarten - 5th Grade**

Join the fun and be creative as we break out the craft supplies and decorate our own illuminated haunted houses just in time for Halloween! All materials, pizza and snacks will be provided. It's going to be "spook-tacular!"

### **Sculpy Clay Sculptures (Wilson) Kindergarten - 5th Grade**

Sculpey "oven-bake" clay is fantastic for small sculptures—halloween ghouls, goblins, flowers, or puppy dogs. Join us in the art room for a creative night of sculptures, candy, and pizza!

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## **Time, Talent, Treasure for Class Parties**

We would love for you to help the students on party days. However, if you aren't giving us your time, talent, or treasure, feel free to stay home/work and pick up as usual. If you want a free pass to stay away, here it is!! Party days are really about the students and their activities. If you are volunteering, thank you, and we can't wait to see you!!!!

ALL visitors, even on class party days, must enter school property using our secure entry by showing his/her government-issued photo ID. Only guests who are listed in ParentVue as parents, guardians, or emergency contacts will gain access to the event.

**WARNING: Due to the number of visitors, there will be a wait when checking in and gaining access to the school building/property. Please be patient and plan accordingly.**

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## Fall Party-Parade and Party information

FALL PARTY - PARADE AND PARTIES THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31ST

We are excited to celebrate our Fall Party at Prairie Star this year on Thursday, October 31st.

### Costumes

Students are invited to wear basic costumes to school on Thursday, October 31st. **Families should work with their students to select comfortable costumes for the entire school day. Students need to be able to use the restroom in their costumes without assistance.** Please be advised that students may not wear costumes that contain any weapon (real or play), blood, or scary costumes that are not elementary school-appropriate.

### Parade

We look forward to hosting an outdoor costume parade beginning at 2:15 p.m. Family members are invited to spread out along the sidewalk of the school if interested in attending the parade. Each class will parade around our sidewalk beginning at 2:15 pm.

### Classroom Parties

Our for our parents who are volunteering a time, talent, or treasure. See the note above. ALL visitors, even on class party days, must enter school property using our secure entry by showing his/her government-issued photo ID. Only guests who are listed in ParentVue as parents, guardians, or emergency contacts will gain access to the event.

**WARNING: Due to the number of visitors, there will be a wait when checking in and gaining access to the school building/property. Please be patient and plan accordingly.**

- **Food planning:** All food brought to the parties must be from the nut-safer list. The school nurse will check all food before being brought to the classrooms. The nut safer list, as well as approved brands, are found on the Blue Valley Website.
- **Siblings:** Although former PSE students love to stop by and see their former teachers, classroom parties are organized for the current students at PSE. The classrooms are too crowded to accommodate extra bodies on party days, and we want the focus to be on our elementary-aged students. We will not allow middle school students to enter the building on party day without their parents, and we strongly encourage families to make other arrangements for all siblings.

**Our utmost job is to keep PSE students and staff safe.** Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We look forward to a fun time celebrating.

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## Yearbook Candid Photo Uploads

It's that time of year again! Time to start sending in your yearbook candid photos that you have been collecting. This year, we have a direct link to upload to: [Photo Share: Be in the yearbook more. A lot more.](#)

[Photo Share: Be in the yearbook more. A lot more.](#)

When you get to the site, you will enter your guardian info and email and will receive a verification code. Then you can upload your images and tag with your student's name and grade. The events we currently need are: Movie Night, Sneak-a-peek, First Day of School and Wolf Walk/Spirit Week.

Throughout the year if you have pictures of extra curriculums like sports/recitals/competitions/community service/scouts we would love to include those as well. No playdates, vacations or parties, please! Thanks in advance for helping to make our yearbook!

Questions? Email us at [prairiestaryearbook@gmail.com](mailto:prairiestaryearbook@gmail.com).

Sally Groesbeck, Abbie Moles & Amy Warren  
Yearbook Co-Chairs

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## Counselor Corner

During lessons this week for 3rd-5th grade the Unthinkabots and Thinkables were introduced. We matched each Unthinkabot to a Thinkable and discussed each character's "bot" power (expected vs unexpected choices).

The Unthinkabots and Thinkables are important to build self-awareness about one's learning. The imaginary characters are a way for students to learn about themselves and find strategies for self-awareness and regulation.

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## PSE Spirit Days

- 10/4-BV high colors-wear black and gold
- 10/18-PSE Spirit Wear
- 11/11-Thank a Veteran-Red, White and Blue Day
- 11/22-Warm and cozy day-slipper day
- 12/12-12/20-7 Days of Holiday Cheer



## Safe Schools Reporting

Blue Valley Schools is committed to promoting and fostering a safe environment in and around all our schools. We are continuously working to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from a wide range of situations. Please check out [available ways to report safety concerns](#).





## THE BRAIN, BEHAVIOR, AND LEARNING

### Understanding and Supporting Your Child's Nervous System

**BV Well** and **Blue Valley School Counselors, Social Workers and Psychologists** invite you to this FREE session designed especially for early elementary (K-2) parents and caregivers. Presented by **Dr. Dustin Springer**, this workshop will:

- **explore the connections between early brain development, behavior, and learning** through the lens of applied educational neuroscience
- **examine how to support your child both at school and home** with the understanding that behaviors are often signs of nervous system dysregulation
- **offer practical strategies and deeper understanding** for creating environments that promote regulation, resilience, and optimal learning for every child.

A **Panel Discussion with Dr. Springer and Blue Valley educational leaders** will follow the presentation. The session is free but please register in advance via the QR code below.



**Dr. Dustin Springer** is an experienced educator with 27 years of service as an elementary teacher, a community school liaison, and now an elementary school administrator. He is also a consultant for *Revelations in Education* and a renowned author and international speaker specializing in applied educational neuroscience and trauma-responsive practices. He serves as affiliate staff at Butler University, co-teaching in the applied educational neuroscience certification program alongside Dr. Lori Desautels. Guided by the belief that "hard work is heart work," he is committed to leading a much-needed paradigm shift in education, fostering connection, equity, and resilience within school communities.



Dr. Springer's presentation sponsored by:



# IDD Resource Fair



**OCT 3rd**



**2-7 pm**



Johnson County Arts &  
Heritage Center  
8788 Metcalf Ave.,  
Overland Park, KS












Visit with resources, and  
community support agencies  
available in Johnson County!

CDDO staff will also be  
available at the Resource Fair  
to assist families with  
beginning the intake process  
for eligibility.

[JoCoGov.org/CDDO](http://JoCoGov.org/CDDO)



## I NEED TO STAY HOME IF...

I have a Fever	I am Vomiting	I have Diarrhea	I have a Rash	I have head lice	I have the Flu, Covid-19, or RSV	I have Strep Throat	I have a bacterial eye infection	I have Pertussis (Whooping cough)
								
100°F or above	Within the last 24 hours	Two or more loose or watery stools within the last 24 hours	Rash with itching or fever	Presence of live lice and/or nits within ¼" of scalp	Flu symptoms, fever, or positive test	Positive test	Bacterial conjunctivitis with inflammation and discharge	Positive test

## I AM READY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL WHEN I AM...

Fever-free for 24 hours without the aid of medication	No vomiting for 24 hours	Diarrhea-free for 24 hours without the aid of medication	Cleared by a physician	After treatment with an antiparasitic shampoo	Symptoms are getting better AND no fever for 24 hours without the aid of medication	Past 24 hours of antimicrobial therapy or after 10 days if not receiving therapy	Started on prescribed therapy	Done with antibiotic therapy
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**Stacey Sperry**

Stacey is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters